

First

Boston May 28th 1777

Ms A 269

In consequence of your Letter to M^r Bant he applied to me to go Philadelphia and in compliance with your desire expressed therein - I gave up the business I was in put myself to some considerable expence which was necessary to the going so far from Home. I had got all ready & expected to have set out with M^r Bant on Yesterday morning - but M^r Winthrop arrived here on Sabbath evening - and he having orders from you to return to Philadelphia with your Books & papers and your direction to him as also your letter by him to M^r Bant you mention his or my coming to Philadelphia which implied that you did not expect both of us & this was Winthrop's opinion from what you said to him - and M^r Bant determining to go I gave up the thought of going tho' much to my mortification & disappointment after having gone so far - but as the expence of my going must have been considerable to you - and when I got to Philadelphia to have found myself not expected or wanted by you would have put me in a disagreeable situation -

I should continue disengaged till I could hear from you again - but M^r Bant expecting to have the settling your affairs for you & M^r Winthrop returning to you it seem'd as if I should not be wanted on that score - and as the support of my family at a time when every necessary of life is greatly enhanced requires that my whole time be employed for that purpose

I have thought it most prudent to endeavour to retain my old birth at least for the present or until something better turn up - and as the Genl. Court comes together tomorrow should I not then endeavour to retain my place it no doubt would be immediately supplied by some other person and I should be destitute of any employment perhaps for some considerable time -

I think you can't have any doubt of my readiness

to

serve your Interest in any thing in my power - and
hope ~~for your kind acceptance~~ you would be amindful of
me you won't be unmindful of me, if you should not want
me in your Service, it may be in your power to get some
birth for me this way preferable to the one I have been in I
should prefer being in a birth which would not oblige me
to be long absent from my family. I am not enough acquainted
with Military Matters to suppose myself qualified for a post
in that department except as a Commissary, Storekeeper Pay
master &c - & I think I should rather be in some Civil De-
partment in some birth not so confined as the one I have
been in - if you should want me in your own business
this way or riding about the Country collecting Debts, I should
prefer it to any other provided the business I could do
would afford a sufficient Maintenance for myself & family
till an Alteration of the times for the better

I heartily Condole with you & your Lady in the loss of
your much beloved Child - my best respects to your
Lady & believe me to be with the greatest regard

To Your Most Obed^t & Aff^t Serv^r
John Lowell



(to)

The Hon^r John Hancock Esq.

Philadelphia —

January 28, 1776 —
late from John Lownell